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NOTIFICATIONS BY HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, Etc.

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PANCHAYAT RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (PTS.III)

RULES RELATING TO ISSUE OF LICENSES FOR REARING OF DOGS AND PIGS AND CONTROL OF UNLICENSED DOGS AND PIGS, IN SUPERSESSION OF RULES ISSUED IN G.O.MS. NO.345, PR&RD, RELIEF (PTS.III) DEPT., DT. 14.08.1996.

[G.O.Ms.No.693, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development (PTS.III), 29th December, 2020.]

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 92 and Clause (xxi) of section 46 read with sub-section (1) of section 268 of the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (Act No.13 of 1994) and in supersession of the rules issued in G.O.Ms.No.345, PR&RD& Relief (Pts.III) Dept., Dt.14.08.1996, the Governor of Andhra Pradesh hereby makes the following rules relating to issue of Licenses for rearing of dogs and pigs and control of unlicensed dogs and pigs:

RULES

1. These rules may be called the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj (issue of Licenses for rearing of dogs and pigs and control of unlicensed dogs and pigs) Rules, 2020.

2. Grant of License for dogs and Pigs

(1) Within ten (10) days from the date of expiry of the yearly pet dog or pig license, every person who owns or is in charge of any dog or pig shall apply to the executive authority for the grant or renewal of license on free or by paying prescribed fee fixed by the local authority.

(2) The owner or person in charge of the pet dog/ pig should submit health certificate along with Anti - Rabies Vaccination Certificate (ARV) in the case of dogs and health certificate alone in the case of pigs from a Government veterinary doctor of the local area.

(3) In order to establish that a dog or pig has license, it is desirable that the Gram Panchayat concerned supply to the dog or pig-owners tokens to be hung around the neck of the dog or pig so that any dog or pig not having a token around its neck shall be considered to be an unlicensed dog or pig.

(4) (a) A Gram Panchayat may give a public notice under section 92 of the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994, that unlicensed dogs and pigs found straying in a public place within the limits of a Gram Panchayat will be captured. The dogs will be operated with Animal Birth Control (ABC) by the local governing body for further arresting the dog population in the local areas.

(b) When a dog or pig is captured, the executive authority shall, as soon as possible, intimate the person who owns or is in charge of such dog or pig of its detention and the period with in which it should be released on issue of the license, if not already issued, with a penalty of Rs.500/- (Rupees five hundred only) and Rs.250/- (Rupees two hundred and fifty only) respectively for every twenty four hours of its detention or part thereof.

(5). (a) On payment of the Penalty or other charges specified in clause (b) of rule 2 (4), the dogs or pigs shall be returned to the person who owns or is in charge of such dogs or pigs.

(b) The above proceeds shall be credited to the Gram panchayat fund/Village Panchayath Fund.

(c) In case, if nobody has come forward claiming the ownership of those dogs/pigs, they will automatically become stray dogs/pigs and they have to be controlled as per the regular procedure for controlling stray dogs/pigs as prescribed in sub - rule (6) of rule 2, which is as follows.

(6) Management of stray dogs and control of dog bite in the Gram Panchayats

(a) Classification of dogs and their sterilization. All dogs shall be classified in one of the following three (3) categories.

(i) Pet dogs (ii) Street dogs (iii) Breeders.

(i) Pet dogs are dogs/bitches kept within owners premises with a responsible caretaker.

(ii) Street dogs are those dogs/bitches homeless on the Street or supported by communities.

- (iii) Breeding dogs are those dogs/bitches belonging to breeders for the specific purpose of breeding which are not sterilized within one (1) year of age.
- (b). the owners of pet dogs shall be responsible for the controlled breeding, immunization, sterilization and licensing in accordance with the rules.
- (c). The breeders should obtain registration certificate from the State animal Welfare board and submit to the local authority for breeder license by paying prescribed fee.
- (d). The local authorities can issue trade licenses to any person who can submit a breeder registration certificate issued by the State Animal Welfare board of Andhra Pradesh which is mandatory.

3. Logistic arrangements for Control of stray dogs - obligations of the Gram Panchayat

- (1). The Gram Panchayat with the support of animal welfare organizations shall provide for
 - (a). Providing sufficient number of detachable dog Kennels which are safe to house dogs as per the status / conditions and easy to clean and hygiene.
 - (b). A vehicle as per the necessity of the village, depending on the dog menace, and trained dog catchers.
 - (c).Taking the veterinary aid in / nearby veterinary institutions in case of emergency with provision for disposal of carcasses.

- (2).Taking up periodical / regular sterilization and immunization from the proximate / in Veterinary institutions by the Graduate Veterinary Assistant Surgeons with the participation of the animal Welfare Organizations, as per the expense, rate fixed by the Committee periodically.

4. Capturing/sterilization/immunization/release of dogs:

- (1). Capturing of dogs shall be based on:
 - (a) Specific complaints (for which the local authority in consultation with the Monitoring Committee shall set up a dog control cell to receive complaints about dog nuisance, dog bites and information about rabid dogs) and
 - (b) General:
 - (i) On receipt of specific complaint about nuisance or dog bite the same shall be attended on priority basis, irrespective of the area from which the complaint comes. On receipt of such complaint the details such as name of the complainant, his complete address, date and time of complaint, nature of

complaint etc., shall be recorded in a register to be maintained for permanent record.

(ii) Capturing is done for the purpose of redressal of the complaint only.

(c) Capturing of dogs within the limits of Gram Panchayats shall be based on strategic and planned methods in all localities.

(d) Sterilization and immunization should be conducted through catching neutering vaccine releasing or animal birth control / anti rabies or other approved techniques in all localities in camps.

(e) The dog capturing squad shall consist of

(i) The driver of the dog van

(ii) Two or more trained employees of Gram Panchayats concerned

(iii) One representative of Non Government Organization or Animal Welfare Organization.

(iv) The Veterinary Officer.

(v) Over all supervision by the Veterinary Officer of concerned Gram Panchayat area.

(f) Each member of the dog squad shall carry, a valid identity card issued by the local authority. The dog capturing squad will be accompanied by a representative of an Animal Welfare Organization nominated for the purpose.

(g) On receipt of specific complaint or for capturing dogs in normal course, the dog squad will visit the concerned area, capture the dogs identified by the complainant in case of complaint oriented capturing and other dogs in case of general capturing. All the dogs caught will be tagged (V notch on right ear) for identification purposes and to ensure that the dogs are released in the same area after sterilization and vaccination. Only stipulated number of dogs, according to the Animal Birth Control Program target, shall be caught by the van. A record of dogs captured shall be maintained in a register, mentioning therein the name of the area/locality, date and time of capture, names of persons in the dog squad on that particular day and details about dogs captured such as number of male dogs, number of female dogs, number of puppies etc.,

(h) The dogs shall be captured by using humane methods such as using butterfly net catching or by trained animal catchers such as those prescribed under the provisions of Prevention of Cruelty (Capture of Animals) Rules, 1979.

(i) While the dogs are being captured in any locality the representative of the local authority or of the animal welfare organization accompanying the dog squad will make announcements on a public address system that dogs are being captured from the area for the purpose of sterilization and immunization and will be released in the same area after sterilization and immunization. The

announcement may also briefly educate the residents of the area about the dog control programme and solicit the support of all the residents reassuring them that the local authority is taking adequate steps for their safety.

(j). Animal husbandry department may depute at least one or two Veterinary Assistant Surgeons specially trained under ABC orientation in street dogs for a reasonable period as and when their services are needed by the Gram Panchayats concerned.

(k). The captured dogs shall be brought to the dog kennels/dog pounds managed by the Animal Welfare Organizations (AWOs). On reaching the dog pounds all the dogs shall be examined by the Veterinarians and healthy and sick dogs should be segregated. Sick dogs should be given proper treatment in the hospitals run by Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)/other institutions and only after they are treated they should be sterilized and vaccinated. The dogs shall be sterilized/vaccinated under the supervision of the veterinarians of the hospital run by the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Animal Welfare Organization or other dog shelters. After necessary period of follow up, the dogs shall be released at the same place or locality from where they were captured and the date, time and place of their release shall be recorded. The representative of Animal Welfare organizations (AWOs) shall accompany the dog squad at the time of release also.

(l). At a time only one lot of dogs shall be brought for sterilization, immunization at one dog kennel or dog pound and these dogs shall be from one locality. Two lots from different areas or localities shall not be mixed at the same dog pound or dog kennel.

(m).The dog kennel must have sufficient space for proper housing and free movement of dogs. The place should have proper ventilation and natural lighting and must be kept clean. Adults and puppies must be housed separately and amongst the adults the males and females also should be housed separately. Adequate arrangement for drinking water and food shall be made for dogs while in captivity.

(n). Female dogs found to be pregnant shall not undergo abortion (irrespective of stage of pregnancy) and sterilization and should be released till they have litter. If the residents or animal empathetic people or Welfare organization volunteers complaints against the Animal Welfare Organization or local authority in implementing ABC/AR about the violations made by them, the monitoring committee shall examine the same with immediate effect and rectify the same to ensure the animal safety and to follow the rules and guidelines in force. If the implementing agency or local authority failed to follow the guidelines, the programme shall be cancelled till further instructions from the monitoring committees of respective local authority.

5. Identification and Recording

Sterilized dogs shall be vaccinated before release and the ears of these dogs should either be clipped and/ or tattooed for being identified as sterilized or immunized

dogs. In addition, the dogs may be given token or nylon collars for identification and detailed records of such dogs shall be maintained. Branding of dogs would not be permitted.

6. Euthanasia of Street Dogs

Incurably ill and mortally wounded dogs as diagnosed by a qualified veterinarian appointed by the committee shall be euthanized during specified hours in a humane manner by administering sodium pentothal for adult dogs and Thiopental Introperitoneal for puppies by a qualified veterinarian or euthanized in any other humane manner approved by Animal Welfare Board of India. No dog shall be euthanized in the presence of another dog. The person responsible for euthanizing shall make sure that the animal is dead, before disposal.

7. Furious or dumb rabid dogs

- (1). On the receipt of complaints from the public to the Dog Control Cell of the Local Authority or on its own, the dog squad of the Local Authority would catch such dogs, suspected to be rabid.
- (2). The caught dog would then be taken to the pound where it would be isolated in an isolation ward.
- (3) The suspected rabid dog would then be subjected to inspection by a panel of two persons i.e.
 - (a) a Veterinary Surgeon appointed by the Local Authority and
 - (b) a representative from an Animal Welfare Organization.
- (4) If the dog is found to have a high probability of having rabies, it would be isolated till it dies a natural death. Death normally occurs within 10 days of contacting rabies. Premature killings of suspected rabid dogs therefore prevent the true incidence of rabies from being known and appropriate action being taken.
- (5) If the dog is found, not to have rabies but some other disease it would be handed over to the Animal Welfare Organization who will take the necessary action to cure and rehabilitate the dog.

8. Disposal of Carcasses of Dogs

- (1) The carcasses of such euthanized dogs shall be disposed of in an incinerator to be provided by the Gram Panchayat.
- (2) The Gram Panchayat should see that carcasses of any dog laying in the Gram Panchayat limits shall be buried in a scientific manner taking proper precautions in a specified area (Animal /bird laying ground).

9. Formation of Monitoring Committees

The Monitoring Committee at Gram Panchayat level shall be constituted consisting of the following as mentioned below for successful implementation of guidelines on stray dog management for control of stray dog menace and dog bite in the state.

Gram Panchayat level Monitoring Committee

1. Sarpanch -	Chairperson of the Committee
2. Panchayat Secretary -	Member Convener
3. Medical Officer of the concerned PHC -	Member
4. Mandal Animal Husbandry officer concerned -	Member
5. Representative of the Animal Welfare Department if any of the Mandal /Gram Panchayat level -	Member
6. Representative/ Nominee of the District SPCA -	Member
7. At least two representatives of the Animal Welfare Organization operating within the Local Mandal/ Gram Panchayat -	Members

10. General functions of the Gram Panchayat level Monitoring Committee

The Committee may meet at least once in a month to review and issue instruction on:

- (a).Catching, transportation, sheltering, sterilization, vaccination, treatment of the street dogs and release of sterilized, vaccinated or treated dogs.
- (b). Create public awareness solicit cooperation and funding.
- (c). Provide guidelines to pet dog owners and commercial breeders.
- (d). To take such steps for monitoring the dog bite cases, ascertain the reasons of dog bite in areas where it took place falling in the jurisdiction of Gram Panchayats concerned and whether it from a stray or pet dog.
- (e). Authorize veterinary doctor to decide on case to case basis the need to put to sleep, the critically ill or fatally injured or rabid dogs in a painless method by using sodium pentothal. But any other method is strictly prohibited. In such cases the veterinary officer and the veterinarian of Non-Government organization should be consulted. This needs to be done as last remedy and not by haste.
- (f). Setting up of Animal Birth Control program centers in the Gram Panchayats with the help of the veterinarians from Non Government Organization/ the Animal Husbandry department.

- (g). To engage sterilization and immunization teams.
- (h). To engage monitoring team to report the progress.
- (i). To issue timely certification and de-recognition to teams performing stray animal control.
- (j). Setting up of veterinary public health laboratory for screening of vaccinated dog blood samples for health and titers against ARV to check for effectiveness of vaccination programs.

11. Control on Pigs

The Gram Panchayat shall identify places outside the limits of the Villages for locating the pig-establishment.

- (a). It is desirable to identify 3 or 4 alternative places and give the choice of selection to the pig-owners to move into;
- (b). As far as possible the areas should be identified within a distance of 3 to 5 Kms., from the end of the Panchayat limits and the places selected should be such as would ensure proper surroundings for the survival of the pigs.
- (c). Specific extents of land, where it is waste-land, poramboke or otherwise may be allotted to the petitioners and other pig-owners, either on payment of a specified lease amount or may be sold to them on such terms as may be found mutually acceptable.
- (d). Once the areas are identified, the pig-owners may make a choice of the locations and they must be allowed to move into the respective places within three days. All possible help should be rendered to them in this regard.
- (e). Periodical supervision should be made by the Gram Panchayat concerned to satisfy themselves that licensed pigs are not straying into the village limits.
- (f). The pig owners should be educated about their obligation to rear the pigs in a proper manner and comply with the statutory orders.
- (g). The Gram Panchayat should see that carcasses of any pig laying in Gram panchayat area shall be buried in a scientific manner taking proper precautions in a specified area (Animal/bird laying ground).

12. The Commissioner, PR&RD, all the District collectors and all the concerned district level officers in the state shall take necessary action accordingly.

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI,
Principal Secretary to Government.

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